recommended for fixation of duty free import of Vanaspathi upto 50,000 tons per annum from Sri Lanka, as quantitative import restriction, to protect the domestic industry and oil seed farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking immediate action in implementing this recommendations in view of the fact that the domestic Vanaspathi industry is on the verge of complete closure, as 70% of the Vanaspathi Industries have already been closed down;

(c) whether Government would immediately issue necessary orders in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) All decisions relating to fixing of Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) for duty free import of vanaspathi including bakery shortening and margarine from Sri Lanka have been worked out in consultation with Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution under the administrative control of which Directorate of Vanaspathi is functioning.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Inclination of South Asian countries to invest in NE

721. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Asian countries, including Malaysia, have shown their inclination for investment in industries in the North East, particularly in Assam;

(b) if so, whether any trade delegation has visited Assam to explore areas of industries/ trade and if so, its outcome; and

(c) Government's response to accelerate the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The regional office of RBI at Guwahati, which covers the North Eastern States, has recorded an FDI flow of Rs. 13.40 crore from South Asian countries for the period from January 2004 to September 2006.

(b) As per information received from the Government of Assam, an exploratory delegation had come from Bangladesh regarding making industrial investments in Assam. However, no concrete proposal has not yet been received.

(c) Government is continuously studying various possibilities for investment and industrial development of NE States including Assam.

Decline in percentage age of manufacturing sector in exports

†722. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether participation of manufacturing sector in the exports from the country has been decreasing during the last three years;

(b) if so, what was its exports in the year 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(c) what are the estimates of its participation during the first six months of the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The share of exports of manufacturing sector in total exports of India has remained fairly stable during the last three years as can be seen from the Table below. Estimates of sector-wise exports for the current year are available only up to July 2006. Based on this information, the share of manufacturing sector exports to total exports has gone up during the current year.

Sectoral Composition of India's Exports in US $ million

	2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006*		2006-07* (Apr-July)	
	Value	Share	Value	Share	Value	Share	Value	Share
Primary Products	9902	15.51	13553	16.22	16388	15.95	5762	14.52
Manufactured products incl. Petroleum products	53941	84.49	69983	83.78	86337	84.05	33923	85.48
Total Exports	63843	100.00	83536	100.00	102725	100.00	39685	100.00

*Provisional

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.